

Disabled activist Paula Peters and job centre worker speak out >>Pages 14&15

**Brutal truth behind new Loach film**



New shadow cabinet must take the fight to the Tories >>Pages 4&5

New tests for Corbyn after purge of the right



# Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2525 | 12-18 October 2016 | socialistworker.co.uk

## 1,500 JOIN BIGGEST ANTI-RACISM MEETING IN A GENERATION



ANTI-RACISTS from across Britain came together at the Stand Up To Racism conference in London last Saturday. They helped launch a new movement that can beat back the racists

>>Pages 10&11

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Lancashire's fracking plan generates fury

HUNDREDS OF protesters gathered at short notice on a rural stretch of road in Lancashire last Saturday against the Tories forcing through fracking.

Tory Sajid Javid last week overturned Lancashire County Council's rejection of fracking.

Gas firm Cuadrilla can now begin dangerous drilling.

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### STRIKE



#### 'Southern rail, do your worst,' say strikers

TRAIN GUARDS were defiant as they embarked on the first of a series of strikes on Tuesday.

"It's a dispute about safety," RMT regional organiser Paul Cox told Socialist Worker.

A striking guard added that Southern's media campaign has "backfired".

>>Page 20

### YEMEN

#### Protests after Saudi airstrikes hit funeral hall

THOUSANDS OF Yemenis, some with guns, protested in the capital Sanaa last Sunday after a Saudi Arabian airstrike.

The strike killed scores of civilians and wounded hundreds at a funeral hall.

Saudi Arabia is Britain's biggest arms customer.

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# STOP TORY RACISM

THE TORIES want to divide us by blaming migrants for the problems in Britain. But there's a fightback, seen at last Saturday's Stand Up To Racism conference.

Home secretary Amber Rudd has been forced into a partial climbdown over plans to make employers list foreign workers.

We need to fight for the free movement of workers and to open the borders.



AMBER RUDD: poison

**WHERE NEXT FOR THE CAMPAIGN? >>PAGE 3**





## THE THINGS THEY SAY

### 'Sick of croissants and looking forward to a full English breakfast'

Despite being a health tourist Ukip's Steven Woolfe complains about hospital food

### 'Handbags at dawn, girl on girl'

Mike "right" Hookem explains how Woolfe ended up in hospital after Hookem did or didn't hit him

### 'Alpha male boasting'

Nigel Farage after footage emerged of Trump bragging about how he sexually assaulted women

### 'It's one thing to have homosexual tendencies or a sex change but another thing to teach it in schools'

Pope Francis has a moment

### 'Capitalism and democracy is in crisis. The West is in retreat'

Former chancellor George Osborne

### 'To allow British submarines to be built using French steel is the ultimate betrayal'

Labour MP John Mann



# Mazher Mahmood guilty but tougher questions remain

**MAZHER MAHMOOD**, known as the "Fake Sheikh", has been found guilty of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

He altered evidence in the collapsed drugs trial of singer Tulisa Contostavlos. His driver Alan Smith was found guilty of the same charge.

Mahmood's links to Southern Investigations may now come further into light.

Socialist Worker has long argued that the 1987 murder of Daniel Morgan lies at the heart of the phone hacking scandal.

Daniel worked for private investigators Southern Investigations. It provided material through a variety of illegal means.

A cop would tell Southern that someone was dealing drugs. The firm would have drugs planted on someone or have someone try to buy drugs. The papers got an exclusive, the cops got an arrest and everyone got paid.

Mahmood told the Leveson Inquiry, "I stopped working with them at the end



'FAKE SHEIKH' Mazher Mahmood

of 1992 or early 1993."

But in 1999 the company carried out "confidential inquiries" into "illegal immigration" after receiving a "request" from "Maz Mahmood".

One police document from an investigation into Southern from the same year reads, "Source met Maz, a News of the World reporter.

"On this occasion Maz was with a

plain clothes officer. The officer was selling a story to Maz."

The story in question was one of entrapping immigrants.

Mahmood and his team would dump a group of migrants at a detention centre and try to get them deported after taking cash off them for work.

He told one police inquiry, "I've got bent police officers that are witnesses." The police did not deem it necessary to follow this up.

In the spring of 2000, anti-corruption cop Bob Quick submitted a report. It came out of the third investigation into the murder of Daniel Morgan.

The report named three News of the World (NOTW) journalists to be investigated. They were Alex Marunchak, Gary Jones and Mazher Mahmood.

The report is now lost.

In 2002 the police again looked at the Daniel Morgan murder. Southern got the NOTW's Investigations to undertake surveillance of the officer heading the inquiry. Cops caught the surveillance van but did nothing more.

**TROUBLEMAKER** regular former Chief Constable Norman Bettison is bringing out a book on Hillsborough despite being under IPCC investigation. It's called Hillsborough Untold. Presumably the title refers to him not telling Merseyside Police when he applied to be chief constable that his break in Yorkshire came on a black propaganda unit that sought to blame Liverpool fans.



Norman Bettison

**THE GUARDIAN** ran a story about Jeremy Corbyn not getting a seat on a train during the summer. It caused a bit of a fuss, with Virgin trains taking offence. The article was 282 words. Last week the paper published an article explaining why it shouldn't have published the first article. It was 1,880 words.

## Was the cops' cash for honours probe corrupt?

SCOTLAND Yard's financial crimes team was investigated by the force's anti-corruption unit over links to private investigators.

Risc Management, set up by retired detectives, met former colleagues in the unit that investigated the MPs' expenses scandal and allegations of "cash for honours".

Documents described the private investigators as operating like "an organised crime network".

Over 300 calls were made to Risc and

cops over 12 months, according to the report.

One of the officers allegedly involved was given a "dirty" mobile phone to hide their contacts.

Risc was set up by Stephen Curtis.

Curtis was a lawyer who worked for Russian oligarchs before he died in a helicopter crash.

The documents say that the firm was hired to "review" the police's criminal file, and that Risc then offered to "find some dirt".



## From black ops in Iraq to 'Prevent'

THE HEAD of a media consultancy responsible for promoting the government's Prevent strategy previously worked for the PR company used to deliver "black ops" propaganda in Iraq.

Richard Chalk was appointed head of the Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) in 2012.

Chalk worked in Baghdad between 2005 and 2006 for Bell Pottinger. Between 2007 and 2011 Bell Pottinger was paid £412 million by the

US Department of Defense for "information operations and psychological operations".

Breakthrough Media, the company behind many RICU-backed "counter-extremism" products is also linked to the Iraq war.

Scott Brown, a director at Breakthrough Media, worked as part of Bell Pottinger's team in Baghdad in 2006. Breakthrough Media's director of research is Andrew Sharples who was a campaign manager for Bell Pottinger in Iraq in 2010.

Scott Brown

## EBay's bid for tax avoidance

EBAY PAID only £925,000 corporation tax on UK sales topping £1 billion last year.

The auction site cut its British tax bill from £11 million by channelling payments via other countries.

Accounts of eBay's US parent firm show UK sales of £1.1 billion in 2015. Yet it reported just £185.8 million from its British business.

The tax it paid on £8 million profits was 12 percent, almost half the 20 percent corporation tax rate.



The Carlton club

## David Cameron goes clubbing

MEMBERS AT the Carlton Club have become irritated by David Cameron's appearances on their turf. His security guards have been blocking other Carltonians from using the smoking terrace while Dave has a fag. One spluttered, "He's acting like a bloody oligarch."

Cameron is said to have also returned to the super-elite and aristocratic White's club. He "resigned" in 2008 over its refusal to admit women members. Many think this was a bluff. "One doesn't resign from here on a whim," a member said. "It's not like being prime minister, you know."

## Sun promotes 'hate speech'

THE SUN and Daily Mail have been singled out in a report on "hate speech" and discrimination.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance criticised tabloids' "offensive, discriminatory and provocative terminology".

Its report said hate speech was a serious problem, including against Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, as well as "unscrupulous press reporting" targeting LGBT+ people.

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# Huge conference shows how we can fight racism

**THE STAND Up To Racism (SUTR) conference last Saturday was a fantastic success. It must now become the launchpad for a mass social movement.**

The 1,500-strong conference brought together many activists who have been fighting in their workplaces, universities and localities.

The support and speeches from Jeremy Corbyn, Diane Abbott, Alf Dubs, the UCU union's Sally Hunt, the TUC's Gloria Mills and many others were extremely important and welcome.

They give confidence to those who feel intimidated by the racists.

Corbyn and Abbott were absolutely right to speak at the conference. It showed they were serious about building an anti-racist movement.

Their detractors will use any excuse to attack them, even if it derails anti-racist resistance.

Socialist Worker is proud to be a part of SUTR and to support its activities. It is a movement of many different forces already, and it should remain so.

The crucial component is the work done at workplace and local level.

## Combating

That means campaigning in solidarity with refugees and migrants, opposing racist myths and scapegoating, combating Islamophobia and confronting state racism.

The inspiring conference has to be followed by broad-based events in every city and town to push back against the rise of racism.

There must be workplace groups and tens of thousands of people wearing stickers and badges.

It could not be a more urgent time. Last week's Tory conference made clear that Theresa May is using racism to glue together the different elements of her government.

They told the 30 percent of NHS doctors who were not born in Britain



**LARGE NUMBERS** of people attended the conference throughout the day

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

● **Friday 14 October**—Day of action to support the Alf Dubs amendment to the Immigration Act for refugee child

● **Saturday 15 October**—Demonstration to defend refugee children. Assemble 2pm, Parliament Square, London

● **October 2016 Black History Month**—SUTR meetings to celebrate black history and report back from SUTR conference

● **November**—Islamophobia Awareness Month. SUTR is organising events on campuses and workplaces with Muslim groups to combat Islamophobia

● **Saturday 10 December**—Winter aid day of action for Calais. Build student, trade union and community delegations to take winter aid collections to Calais and Dunkirk

● **27 January 2017**—Holocaust Memorial Day

● **18 March 2017**—Stand Up To Racism national demonstration. Central London. Part of a global day of action against racism

**For details of all events go to [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)**

that after an "interim" period they could be replaced.

SUTR must be the rallying point for all who refuse to bow to such filth.

SUTR is not some add-on to the general resistance to austerity. It is a central part of it. And putting a positive alternative to austerity is also a part of fighting racism.

A working class that fights for decent pay and to break the Housing Act will be much less prone to swallowing racist myths.

Upcoming SUTR events (see box) need the support of every anti-racist and everyone who hates the Tories.

## On other pages...

Birth of a movement—voices from the conference >>> **Pages 10&11**

## REFUGEES

### Let all the children in

LOCAL PROTESTS were set to take place around Britain on Friday and Saturday in solidarity with migrants in Calais. The protests will also demand that child refugees are let in.

It comes as France prepares to demolish the "jungle" in Calais where over 10,000 refugees are locked out by Britain's border.

Clare Moseley of charity Care 4 Calais told last Saturday's Stand Up To Racism conference, "People are going to be put in aircraft hangars, barns and sheds" with "nothing to eat".

"I am terrified," she added.

An Eritrean man was killed in a car accident on Sunday trying to cross the border.

Labour's Lord Alf Dubs



**Riot cops in the Calais jungle**

said the Tories have "cheated and lied" their way out of taking in refugee children.

He moved an amendment to the Immigration Act to let in children who don't otherwise qualify.

The government now says accepting children who prove they have close relatives in Britain fulfils its obligation. But it was already obliged to admit them.

Dubs called the U-turn "a complete breach" of "the spirit and the letter" of the amended Act.

The Tories are preparing legislation to punish asylum seekers for risking their lives, Refugee Council chief Maurice Wren warned.

Theresa May has tried to divide refugees brought in under Britain's official resettlement schemes from "the rich and the strong" who make their own way.

A new law could turn that into official discrimination.

The European Union plans to deport tens of thousands of refugees to Afghanistan under a deal agreed last week. Pakistan is already driving refugees back, despite an intensification of the Afghan war.

More online—The West deports Afghans to warzone [bit.ly/2dZm4eX](http://bit.ly/2dZm4eX)

## SOCIALIST WORKER APPEAL TO RAISE £125,000

**S**ocialist Worker has always been proud to report on anti-racist struggles, such as the tremendously successful Stand Up To Racism conference.

We also seek to cover all the industrial battles in Britain from the junior doctors' strikes

earlier this year to the Durham teaching assistants today.

This week Southern Rail workers struck and we report from the picket lines.

Our appeal now stands at £56,375.

Please donate to support us in this vital work.

### I SUPPORT THE APPEAL...

"The working class is the backbone of this country. Socialist Worker gets out there and makes people aware when the bosses are launching attacks on the working class. What the paper does is brilliant."  
**KFC fast food worker**



**To donate go to [www.socialistworker.co.uk/appeal](http://www.socialistworker.co.uk/appeal)**

Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to 'SW Appeal' to PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW







# New tests for Corbyn after purge of the right

As the dust settles after the Labour leader's reshuffle, Nick Clark looks at where the cards have fallen

**RIGHT WING** members of the Labour Party were raging last week after left wing party Jeremy Corbyn moved against them with a shadow cabinet reshuffle.

But Labour's new shadow Brexit minister Sir Keir Starmer has already used his position to call for immigration to be reduced. And the new shadow attorney general Shami Chakrabarti was set to abstain on the Tories' "snooper's charter" bill. Corbyn began his reshuffle on Thursday of last week by sacking Rosie Winterton as chief whip.

He also appointed anti-racist MP Diane Abbott as shadow home secretary, and Nia Griffith—who opposes nuclear weapons—as shadow defence secretary.

Winterton had been pushing for Corbyn to reinstate shadow cabinet elections, in which members of the shadow cabinet are selected by MPs.

## Undermine

MPs voted to scrap shadow cabinet elections in 2011 but now hope to use them to undermine Corbyn.

Clive Lewis was removed as shadow defence secretary after saying he wouldn't oppose the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons. He is now shadow business secretary.

The reshuffle was a sign of

## BACK STORY

**Corbyn concedes to right to bring the left into shadow cabinet**

●Anti-racist MP Diane Abbott has been promoted to shadow home secretary

●But Corbyn has made some compromises with the right to get his allies into some top positions

●New shadow Brexit minister Keir Starmer wasted no time in calling for limits on immigration

●The Labour right is still out to get Corbyn, but have been forced into silence for the time being

Corbyn's strength after he was re-elected as Labour leader last month.

He was also able to appoint 31 new shadow ministers after a wave of frontbench resignations kicked off the attempt to force him out earlier this year.

Eighteen of those appointed have returned to the fold after joining in with the resignations.

The Labour right had hoped to use calls for unity to pull Corbyn to the right. They are outraged that he has instead appointed left MPs to top positions.

Some MPs appeared to begin



**SHADOW HOME** secretary Diane Abbott with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn last Saturday

PICTURE: GEOFF DEXTER

fresh attempts to organise against Corbyn.

Conor McGinn—who promised to keep fighting against Corbyn at a Labour conference fringe meeting last month—resigned from the whip's office along with Holly Lynch.

And a report in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper claimed that backbench MPs were setting up a "shadow shadow cabinet" to directly undermine Corbyn's leadership.

One anonymous Labour MP said, "Jeremy Corbyn is still the leader. So what? I'm going to do what I want to do."

But there were also signs that

Corbyn has made compromises with the Labour right on some issues, like with Starmer over immigration.

Abbott disagreed that there should be a cap on immigration. But "sources close to Corbyn" said he agreed with trying to reduce immigration by "ending the undercutting of pay through the exploitation of migrant labour."

The Tories' "snooper's charter" bill is set to be debated in the House of Lords this week.

The bill will give spies more power to access private emails. Labour MPs voted it through the Commons in

June, and Labour Lords have been whipped to abstain.

Corbyn was re-elected leader last month in part because he represents an alternative to the politics of racism and because he opposed attacks on civil liberties.

Making concessions to the right over immigration can only strengthen those who want Labour to join in with scapegoating migrants.

## On other pages...

Why we say no to British arms deals with Saudi regime>>Page 8

# Momentum keeps growing

LABOUR LEFT group Momentum marked a year last Saturday since it was set up to build on the mass rallies of Corbyn's first leadership bid.

The aim was a "mass movement for social change" involving both Labour members and "the wider social movement which is springing up".

But the group has come under sustained

Adam Klug of Momentum

attack from the right. Some activists in Momentum wanted to restrict its membership and focus on battles

inside Labour.

Organiser Adam Klug said the group now has 20,000 paying members and over 200,000 supporters.

Re-energised by the second leadership campaign, they have an opportunity to organise with others in mass campaigns, such as against grammar schools and to defend refugees.

## 'I'll be there in struggle,' vows Abbott

JEREMY CORBYN and new shadow home secretary Diane Abbott spoke at conferences organised by the Stop the War Coalition (see below) and Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) last Saturday.

Their appearance at both outraged the Labour right.

At SUTR conference (see pages 10&11) Abbott promised to, "fight against racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant policies," as shadow home secretary.

"There could be no more important time to hold this conference," she said. "We are going to continue to stand up to racism." Abbot vowed, "I, as your shadow home secretary, will be there in the struggle."

And Corbyn said, "Campaigning is very important. When we come together we can achieve a great deal. Think of the strength of communities together."

"Think of what they can achieve when we understand that diversity is not a problem, it's a strength."

Corbyn had been under pressure to pull out of speaking at both events—and came under attack from sections of the Labour Party for attending.

The Labour right seized on criticisms to smear Corbyn. They would rather Labour's leader backed war in Syria and pandered to anti-migrant racism.

Unity on the left in campaigning against war and racism is the way to beat them.

# Stop the War condemns all the bombing in Syria

by JUDITH ORR

UP TO 700 people attended the Stop the War Coalition (StW) international conference last Saturday.

The conference was called to mark 15 years since the coalition was formed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the US. It was also a call to arms to keep up the resistance to war and imperialist interventions that continue to blight the lives of millions.

## Endless

Leading activist Salma Yaqoob talked of her involvement in StW since the start, saying her children have grown up knowing nothing but endless war.

She denounced the stigmatising of Muslims as terrorists that has accompanied the wars, saying it was "suffocating".

Some at the conference raised the issue of Russia's role in bombing in Syria. StW

convenor Lindsey German and many delegates from the floor reiterated StW's "condemnation of all foreign interventions".

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn joined the final plenary alongside newly appointed shadow home secretary Diane Abbott.

## Conditions

Abbott condemned the dreadful conditions refugees fleeing war suffered in the Calais camp.

And to cheers former StW chair Corbyn thanked anti-war activists for their work.

Corbyn addressed a minority in the hall who called on him to support an intervention in Syria. He argued that a political solution was "not going to be achieved by more bombing".

He went on to point to the role of Britain in arming Saudi Arabia which is bombing civilians in Yemen.

Corbyn called for a suspension of such arms sales and wrapped up the conference with a call for activists to be the voices of peace.

## Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

# ANGRY AT SOCIETY? LET'S FIGHT FOR A BETTER ONE

**T**HERE IS a deep bitterness in British society. Every serious analysis of the vote for Britain to exit the European Union (EU) concedes that the Leave vote was fuelled, at least partially, by anger.

Anger against inequality and contempt for the political establishment.

But a survey released last weekend by the New Economics Foundation shows there is also hostility to the present set-up among Remain voters.

The survey found Remain voters "say the world is run by a few powerful people (62 percent)".

## Elites

They think that "big business and corporate elites have too much power (55 percent)," and that "the economy is headed in the wrong direction (55 percent)."

Such views put them in the same camp as millions of those who voted Leave.

However people voted on 23 June, they know that something is seriously wrong with Britain.

As the charity Oxfam noted recently, "The UK is one of the

most unequal developed countries in the world.

"Three decades of high-level inequality have had a profound impact, leading many people to believe that they have little stake in society".

Such a reality explains why hundreds of thousands of people have joined the Labour Party recently to vote for Jeremy Corbyn. But the potential for resistance is much greater.

A huge majority of British society wants the railways taken back from parasites like the bosses of Southern rail (see page 20).

More than 80 percent of people want the rights of EU nationals living here to be fully guaranteed



**However people voted, they know that something is deeply wrong with Britain**

inquiry into Orgreave. But SYP doesn't want justice for miners—it wants to repair its reputation.

And some are ready to help it. Andy Burnham told the Labour Party conference last month, "Today's police officers don't deserve the clouds of the past hanging over them."

But the police should not be rehabilitated. They protect those at the top of society—and keep everyone else down.

That's why cops treat working class people as scum. It's why there

after Brexit. That's a demand which Tory ministers still refuse to guarantee.

Millions want to tax the super-rich and the bankers, act effectively on climate change, combat racism and stop the erosion of workplace and civil rights.

That means we must have a left Brexit. Not one decided by either the racists around Theresa May or the free market demands of sections of big business and the banks.

## Lamenting

It's also why trade union leaders should stop lamenting the Leave vote and start fighting. If the fall in the pound means higher prices in the shops we need real pay campaigns and a £10 an hour minimum wage for all.

We need proper workplace rights, action against racism, serious defence of the NHS and other key services—and much more.

When Southern rail managers tried to turn passengers against the strikers they soon discovered that workers are far more popular than fat cat bosses.

That is the mood that buoys Corbyn—it must be turned into action.

# COPS' FILTH WON'T WASH

**M**ORE FORMER police officers have spoken out against the policing of striking miners during the 1984 Battle of Orgreave.

The BBC this week quoted one officer who said his orders were to "use as much force as possible". "It was a licence to do what we wanted which I didn't think was right," he said.

Apparently everybody now wants to make amends. South Yorkshire Police (SYP) has promised to cooperate with any

inquiry into Orgreave. But SYP doesn't want justice for miners—it wants to repair its reputation.

And some are ready to help it. Andy Burnham told the Labour Party conference last month, "Today's police officers don't deserve the clouds of the past hanging over them."

But the police should not be rehabilitated. They protect those at the top of society—and keep everyone else down.

That's why cops treat working class people as scum. It's why there

are scandals such as Orgreave and Hillsborough. But the fact that campaigners have stopped Orgreave being swept under the carpet should give us hope.

When ordinary people come together and fight, they show their real power. That's why the 1984-85 Miners' Strike so terrified the ruling class.

Campaigning has forced more nervous cops to come out of the woodwork over Orgreave.

Only more campaigning can win real justice.

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Keir Starmer explains how much he plans to limit immigration

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## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## May shifts right, but makes new enemies

**THERESA MAY** used last week's Tory conference in Birmingham to shift her party and her government sharply to the right.

Her speeches largely consisted of symbolic politics. For example, announcing a "Great Repeal Bill" isn't a big deal. Leaving the European Union (EU) necessitates repealing the 1972 European Communities Act, which took us in, and the new law won't come into force till we leave.

But the symbolism took on a life of its own—most notably in home secretary Amber Rudd's proposal to make companies declare the size of their non-UK workforces. This, along with an absurd ban on foreigners advising the Foreign Office, infuriated and terrified a very wide spectrum of opinion.

What was interesting about the speeches was how far they were directed against business. May's reproach "if you believe you're a citizen of the world, you're a citizen of nowhere" was to bosses.

But the logic of capital is cosmopolitan. The neoliberal offensive of the past generation, pioneered by the Tories' own Margaret Thatcher, has partly been about liberating it from national restrictions and controls. The arrival of migrants to work everywhere from farms and factories to banks and universities is part of this process.

So is May about to reverse neoliberalism? Don't believe it for a moment. The strident nationalist rhetoric is partly about consolidating control of her party.

One Brexiteer told the Observer's Andrew Rawnsley, "It turns out that having a Remainer as prime minister has worked perfectly for us. She has to keep proving to us and the party that she is serious." It's also about winning back electoral ground lost to Ukip, which has been thrown into disarray by the Tory embrace of Brexit.

The trouble is that words have real effects. May kicked international capital in the face, and international capital kicked back. The pound dropped like a stone last week.

### Weakness

David Bloom, chief currencies analyst at HSBC, told the Financial Times newspaper (FT), "Sterling has become a political and structural currency. This is a recipe for weakness given its twin [trade and budget] deficits. The currency is now the de facto official opposition to the government's policies."

But the real constraints on May go much further. She announced in Birmingham that she would activate article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to leave the EU in March next year. She will then have two years to conduct complex negotiations with the rest of the EU.

European governments were already disinclined to give Britain a good deal. They're scared of anti-EU sentiment in their own countries. And they fear making concessions to Britain will encourage other member states to demand their own special arrangements, unravelling the entire union.

May might have thought she could grandstand about controlling immigration without damaging the negotiations. But there are already signs of a continental backlash.

In a speech last week, according to the FT, German chancellor Angela Merkel "urged companies in sectoral talks to resist 'pressure from European industry associations' and avoid the temptation to set aside EU principles—especially the freedom of movement—because it was 'comfortable' to do so".

No wonder the City and the CBI bosses' lobby are hopping mad. They have been putting their hopes in chancellor of the exchequer Philip Hammond. He is pressing for a deal that gives banks and corporations based in Britain the fullest possible access to the single European market.

But the Sunday Telegraph quoted one Eurosceptic cabinet minister attacking Hammond for his "relentless pessimism" and warning "he should watch his back".

Meanwhile in the Mail on Sunday Hammond and his friends were quoted briefing against the three leading Brexiteers in the cabinet—Boris Johnson, David Davis, and Liam Fox—for their "bull in a china shop tactics".

So the Tories were scary last week. But they are divided and face formidable opponents in big business and the rest of the EU. What's missing is a real challenge to them from the left and from below. It's up to us to help build this.

# Lancashire's fracking plan generates deep resistance

The first fracking in Britain since 2011 has got the go-ahead—despite a vote against it, writes **Dave Sewell**

**HUNDREDS OF** protesters gathered at short notice on a rural stretch of Preston New Road in Lancashire last Saturday against the Tories forcing through fracking.

Communities and local government secretary Sajid Javid last week overturned Lancashire County Council's rejection of fracking.

He authorised gas firm Cuadrilla to begin its dangerous drilling for shale gas in the village of Little Plumpton.

A decision on a second site has yet to be made. Councillors rejected both last year amid protests and widespread campaigning.

This could become the first fracking to go ahead in Britain since 2011.

That's when Cuadrilla was forced to stop its operations near Blackpool after they caused earthquakes.

Tina Louise Rothery is a local anti-fracking campaigner and part of the "Lancashire Nanas" group.

### Landmark

She told Socialist Worker, "They keep calling this a landmark decision.

"I don't know how they define a landmark—for me this is the day they made our councillors impotent and our local democracy a myth.

"What are we left with? It's only us now standing between a dangerous



**TINA ROTHERY** (above) could face 14 days in jail for refusing to pay a £50,000 fine after taking part in an anti-fracking protest. A solidarity rally has been called outside as she appears in court. **●I am Tina Too! Wednesday 19 October, 1pm-4.15pm, The Law Courts, Chapel Street, Blackpool FY1 5RJ**

### A PREVIOUS protest against fracking in Lancashire

PICTURE: FRACK FREE LANCASHIRE

industry and our children's futures."

Fracking can contaminate water and severely damage the local environment.

And the gas it produces adds to the devastating greenhouse effect driving climate change.

But not everyone is unhappy. Shamefully, senior GMB union official Stuart Fegan said, "This pragmatic decision is an important step forward for energy security."

He added that it "will reduce the gas we will need to import from regimes fronted by henchmen, hangmen and head choppers".

There needs to be an urgent reduction in fossil fuel use to combat climate change. Finding even more

gas will make matters worse.

Local activists are preparing to step up their resistance.

On Saturday's protest they chanted, "Shame on you", rallying on both sides of the busy road and walking across it.

Nick Danby of Frack Free Lancashire said, "We will take this to the nth degree. It will not happen—we have a duty to the next generation."

Tina said, "There are no trucks for us to block yet—but we're on the roadside verges and we're making clear that this is the start of something."

### Got a story?

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## Airport expansion is toxic for Tories

**GOVERNMENT** airport expansion plans will bring widespread noise pollution to south east England—and damage the climate.

London Heathrow's position as frontrunner for expansion was strengthened when the Scottish government shamefully threw its weight behind a new runway.

Scottish National Party economy secretary Keith Brown said it was "the best deal for Scotland".

Heathrow bosses agreed to make Glasgow a "logistics hub". London



Zac Goldsmith—green Tory?

Gatwick bosses vowed to continue preparing to expand whatever the decision.

Heathrow expansion is a toxic issue for the Tories.

Many MPs, including leader Theresa May, have constituencies that would be hit by noise and air pollution.

Former London mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith reiterated last week that he would "trigger a by-election".

The head of May's local Tory association threatened to sue the government.

### FIGURE IT OUT

A new runway at Heathrow could mean

**200,000**  
new flights a year

**40,000**  
extra road journeys a year

**300,000**  
more people exposed to noise pollution



# We should not pay for the pound's fall in value

Currency markets reacted to Brexit with a fall in the pound, as bosses make us pay for their system's chaos

**THE POUND** plummeted to its lowest value in 31 years in a "flash crash" on Friday of last week—falling 6 percent in just two minutes.

Though there was some recovery, it was falling again as Socialist Worker went to press.

Dominic Bunning, a senior strategist at money-laundering bank HSBC, predicted that it would continue slumping for more than a year.

It followed a similar fall in July after the vote to leave the European Union (EU).

It served as a reminder that the markets and the bankers who speculate on them aren't subject to the votes of ordinary people.

A weaker currency can have contradictory effects. It makes imports more expensive, putting pressure on some firms' costs. They will try to make us pay by putting up prices in the shops.

But some bosses, politicians and even union leaders have spent months blaming the steel industry's crisis on cheap imports.

They cheered last week at EU plans to put tariffs on Chinese steel to make it more expensive.

## Growth

Many businesses and pundits had previously complained that a strong pound made British exports too expensive to sell and held back growth.

Exports are now cheaper, so why aren't they rushing to open new factories and offices? Instead there's a real



Total banker—HSBC's Dominic Bunning

## BACK STORY

**Theresa May's speech on Brexit at Tory party conference spooked the financial markets**

● It dashed hopes of many top bosses that Britain would stay in the European Single Market

● The pound fell to its lowest value in over three decades on Friday of last week

● Chancellor Philip Hammond and Bank of England boss Mark Carney tried to reassure bankers

● But many predict a longer term decline in the pound against the dollar and the euro

danger of an increase in the cost of living for ordinary people.

This will happen if bosses and the government succeed in keeping wages, pensions and benefits down.

## Crash

Wage freezes during times of rising prices were among the biggest squeezes on workers' incomes after the 2008 financial crash.

The Tories' two biggest cuts to welfare were a switch to a lower measure of inflation, and a three year below-inflation freeze for most working age benefits.

So fighting for better pay deals and benefit increases must be a priority for unions.

The EU is a bosses' club and the vote to leave it was a shock to the bosses' system.

The markets reacted to it, and bosses will always try to pass their losses onto workers.

They also do this when left wing governments are elected, fighting back with investment strikes and speculative attacks on currency.

Workers can't fight for their own interests without disturbing the bosses' system.

The point isn't to avoid threatening profits, but to stop them making us pay for their crisis.

TRADERS IN the City of London react to the news of the Brexit vote

## Tiny flats will do for you lot, says the housing minister with the plush pad

by ALISTAIR FARROW

TORY HOUSING minister Gavin Barwell has a bizarre solution to the housing crisis. He called on older people to leave their houses to their grandchildren rather than their children.

This ignores the fact that many people will never own their homes.

The number of private tenants is set to overtake people with mortgages by 2025, according to accounting firm PwC's English Housing Survey.

Barwell's comments followed his announcement on Tuesday of last week that Britain's building regulations, already among the slackest in Europe, should be loosened further.

The privately-educated Barwell lives in a three quarters of a million pound house in the village of Sanderstead,

South Croydon. That's over twice the average price in the borough.

His idea of affordable housing is very different from people priced out of London and other cities where rising house prices are forcing up private rents.

His solution to the housing crisis includes companies like Pocket Living, which specialise in cramming people into small flats.

"If I was 22 today, I would

rather have the chance to own that than be priced out," he opined.

New houses built in Britain are already the smallest in Europe—half the size, on average, of the equivalent in Denmark.

The Tories' solution to the housing crisis is more of the same market that created it. It's about profit, not decent affordable homes.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has promised tens of thousands of new council homes a year if Labour is elected. Labour needs to be held to that promise, and pushed to defend what council housing has survived privatisation or "redevelopment"—often by Labour councils.

Campaigners are also fighting to overturn the Tories' Housing Act that takes a wrecking ball to council housing.

Join the Axe the Housing Act summit on Saturday 22 October at Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD. Go to [bit.ly/2dmyqKY](http://bit.ly/2dmyqKY)



**On other pages...**

Protest at awards for council estate wreckers >>>Page 19



True blue Barwell's house cost twice the local average

# Protests after Saudi airstrikes hit Yemen

The US and Britain have blood on their hands for the destruction in Yemen, writes **Charlie Kimber**

**THOUSANDS OF Yemenis, some with guns, protested in the streets of the capital, Sanaa, last Sunday after a Saudi Arabian airstrike.**

Saudi planes had fired at a funeral hall packed with mourners. The airstrike killed scores of civilians and wounded hundreds more.

A United Nations official said that over 140 people had been killed and 525 wounded, many seriously.

The Saudi offensive, which has gone on for more than 18 months, is backed by Britain and the US.

Bomb fragments found in the wreckage showed they had been supplied by the US.

The Associated Press quoted one rescue worker who described the remains of the blasted funeral hall as a "lake of blood".

Videos show an initial hit followed by a second after rescue workers and civilians had rushed to the site to give aid.

Former Yemeni leader Ali Saleh was driven from office by mass demonstrations as part of a wave of uprisings across the Arab world in 2011. He was replaced by his vice president Abd Mansour Hadi.

But he also was forced to flee and was replaced by a government based on the Houthi religious and political group.

## Figurehead

The Saudi regime, in an effort to bolster its influence in the region, uses Hadi as a figurehead to carry out the war.

There have been repeated civilian massacres. In March an airstrike on a market in Mastaba killed 119 people including 22 children.

In September 2015 Saudi warplanes blasted a wedding party near Mokha, killing 131 civilians.

UN agencies say the war has killed 10,000 people, with most of the civilians slaughtered by the Saudis and their allies.

The charity Doctors Without Borders withdrew from six hospitals it was operating in northern Yemen after Saudi air strikes in August hit

## BACK STORY

**Saudi Arabia has waged war on Yemen for the past 18 months**

● It is targeting the poorest country in the Arab world to bolster its influence

● There have been repeated massacres, and protests in response have hit the capital

● The US and Britain are backing Saudi Arabia's offensive and supplying arms to the regime

● The war has devastated Yemen. Half the population suffer from hunger and malnutrition

one of its clinics. The airstrike killed 19 people. Another had hit a clinic in Taiz in December.

Saudi Arabia is Britain's biggest arms customer. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade says the Saudi airforce uses British Paveway guided missiles and Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft.

## Licences

The Tories have granted, and continue to grant, export licences for weapons to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen.

They licensed £2.8 billion of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia in the six months after the bombing started.

Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab world and the war has brought further appalling devastation.

Some three million people have been forced from their homes and seven million people—half the population—are suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Saudi-backed Yemeni troops claim to be nearing Sanaa.

This is a recipe for mass murder—and Britain will have blood on its hands.



**On other pages...**

Mass movement stops abortion ban in Poland >> **Page 17**

PROTESTERS IN Sanaa, Yemen, following the Saudi bombing of a funeral hall

## ETHIOPIA

# Democracy demos spark clampdown

**HUNDREDS OF anti-government protesters have been killed in Ethiopia as they fight for democracy and accountability.**

The government declared a state of emergency on the eve of a visit by Angela Merkel, the German chancellor.

At least 52 people were killed recently in the town of Bishoftu at a religious festival that turned into an anti-government protest.

Security forces used bullets and tear gas to attack a crowd of tens of thousands of people, causing a deadly stampede.

The government shut down much of the internet across the country during the past week in

an effort to stop activists using social media to mobilise.

The Ethiopian government has long been regarded as a model by the West because it strongly pushes market policies and welcomes foreign investment.

Former Labour leader Tony Blair has lauded Ethiopian governments.

He appointed former leader Meles Zenawi to his Africa Commission in 2004.

Western countries, including Britain, have continued to allow arms exports to the government.

And they have used its troops to fight in their interest in Somalia.



A protester in Ethiopia

## PALESTINE

# Israeli police shoot activist

A PALESTINIAN man killed two Israelis—one a policeman—in occupied East Jerusalem last Sunday after prolonged harassment by Israeli forces.

The man, Misbah Abu Sbeih, was later shot dead after a gun battle with Israeli police.

Misbah was a

prominent Palestinian activist known for his role in defending the Al Aqsa mosque compound from incursions by right wing Israeli groups.

Such incursions are deliberate provocations by groups who want to force Palestinians out of East Jerusalem.

Israeli forces

stepped up repression in East Jerusalem recently to allow Israeli activists to enter the mosque's compound. Israel also banned Misbah from all of East Jerusalem on 2 October.

He is the 232nd Palestinian known to be killed by Israeli forces since October last year.

## FIGURE IT OUT

**£320 MILLION**

total value of export licences for arms and other controlled goods sold from Britain to Israel since 2008

**£117 MILLION**

total value of the sales that were for foods for military use

**£203 MILLION**

total value of the sales that were for goods for dual use



## Leave vote left a mess

I'M SORRY to say this comrades, but Socialist Worker did help Theresa May in building up this mess.

It was very easy to imagine the consequences of a leave victory in the European Union vote—a strengthening of the right wing.

You failed to spot it and campaigned to leave. Therefore you have to take a little of the responsibility.

**Stafano Bianchi**  
On Facebook

## May pays for brutal cops

SOME SOCIALIST Worker readers may be surprised at the pro-migration attitudes found in the Economist magazine.

It explained that European migrants have added “more than £20 billion to the public finances between 2001 and 2011.”

The same edition attacks May's announcement of a further £103 million to South Sudan as a way of stopping migration at the source.

“Money to help patrol Sudan's borders will go to its corrupt and brutal police force. Worse, the government has deployed the dreaded Rapid Support Force to round up Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees.”

Sending money to source countries, as with Operation Sophia reported in Socialist Worker (28 September), shows utter disregard for humanitarian concerns.

**Miriam Scharf**  
East London

## Demand that Labour MPs face reselection

JEREMY CORBYN'S Labour MP opponents should put their careers where their arguments are.

They obviously don't represent or reflect the grassroots interests of the Labour Party membership.

So they should put themselves up for re-selection in their constituencies.

It's only democratic for them to resign and at least seek reselection to find out what their local party



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

# There's some justice at last over racist 'perfect murder'

AT GLASGOW High Court last Wednesday, Ronnie Coulter was found guilty of the murder of Surjit Singh Chhokar.

Coulter killed Surjit by stabbing him three times as he returned home from work in 1998.

This was Coulter's second trial for the murder. He was cleared of the murder in 1999.

Then at a separate trial in 2000, his nephew Andrew Coulter and a friend David Montgomery all walked free.

Andrew Coulter has since been photographed on demonstrations with the racist Scottish Defence League.

Serious criticism was made of both the police and of the prosecution service, citing

incompetence and institutional racism.

The decision to try Coulter separately rather than all three together was even criticised by the first trial judge.

It is seen as the reason why it proved impossible at the time to gain a guilty verdict.

There was also criticism of the authorities for their refusal to acknowledge a racial motivation for the crime.

Surjit's family were also treated insensitively. They were not provided with the necessary interpreters or informed about the decisions made about prosecutions or exact charges.

The Chhokar Family Justice Campaign was formed by the

family's solicitor Aamer Anwar in conjunction with anti-racist campaigns. It got strong support from trade unions and the STUC.

Eventually two inquiries substantiated many of campaigners' claims. But the inquiries were in themselves unsatisfactory, being held in private and also criticising aspects of the campaigning.

Sadly Surjit's father died last year before seeing his son's killer convicted. But the fight for justice was never given up.

Ronnie Coulter, who boasted to his sister, using racist language, that he had committed the perfect murder, now faces a life sentence.

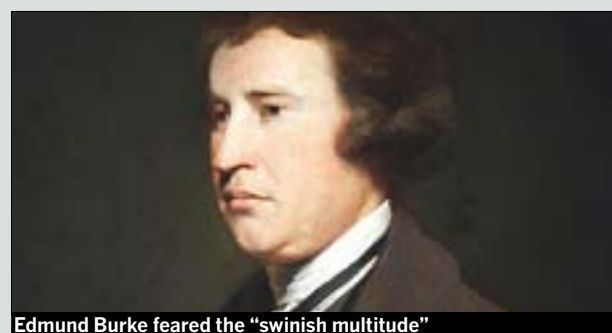
**Margaret Woods**  
Glasgow

## Love/hate relationship with swine

IN HER conference speech last week, Theresa May hailed Edmund Burke—the founder of modern conservatism.

Burke feared the “swinish multitudes” with “cannibal appetites” that would threaten democracy if the right to vote was extended to everyone.

It tells you something about the Tories that they



Edmund Burke feared the “swinish multitude”

still look up to Burke.

For all their talk of being the new party of the workers, they still hate and fear us.

Of course, some attitudes have changed in the Tory party. And if tales

about what their last leader got up to are true, perhaps some of them would enjoy spending time among a multitude of swines.

**Erin Banes**  
Sunderland

Just a thought...

## A tale of two cities

“JEZ WE can”, Jez we can”, Jez we can”! The idolising chants ricocheted around the packed-out conference hall in Liverpool.

Corbynistas young, old, black, white, middle class, working class, joined in the standing ovations and rapturous cheers that filled the teeming auditorium.

Contrast that to the Tory conference in Birmingham. I know which conference I'd rather have been at.

**Gabrielle Whitehead**  
Derbyshire

## There's room for all here

THERE'S PLENTY of room for refugees.

At any one time in Britain there are 600,000 empty homes.

That's not counting empty properties that were formerly businesses, or the huge buy-to-let market where landlords own one or more houses.

There is more than enough will to get this done, if those of us who want to help those in danger are allowed to do so.

**Kevin McCaighy**  
York

## Can we let in all refugees?

YOUR FRONT page last week said Britain should let in all the refugees.

But the world has tens of millions of refugees. We should take in our fair share and adequately support them.

I would say Britain should accept 750,000 over the next five years with adequate housing and support provided.

**Craig Skinner**  
Derby

## Abortion bans are deadly

WELL DONE to the pro-choice protesters in Poland (Socialist Worker, 5 October)

In countries where abortion is illegal, women die as a result of botched attempts or from pregnancy-related complications that could have been prevented by a safe, legal termination.

The “pro-life” movement has blood on its hands.

**Rebecca Grant**  
on Facebook



# BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT

## VOICES OF RESISTANCE FROM THE STAND UP TO RACISM CONFERENCE LAST SATURDAY

**M**ORE THAN 1,500 people launched a national anti-racist movement in Britain last Saturday. The Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) conference in London united refugees, councillors, students, trade unionists and others —and showed the potential to push back racism.

Labour Lord Alf Dubs hailed the conference as “fantastic”. “I’m proud to be part of it,” he said. “We’ll go from strength to strength and no one can stop us.”

SUTR joint convenor Sabby Dhalu said, “We’ve seen today the birth of

a new movement against racism in Britain.”

The conference brought together activists and people new to politics. The main hall was decked with dozens of union banners.

Workshops were full of debate about the reasons for racism and how to resist it. Over 200 people made contributions.

Naampet Dickinson came from Peterborough. “I saw a Tweet about the conference,” she said. “There are a lot of Ukip supporters in Peterborough.”

“We need to be better equipped to debate with people.”

School student Ruth came from Lambeth in south London. “I saw the conference on Facebook and thought I should come,” she told Socialist Worker. “I’m interested in politics and particularly anti-racism.”

Engineer Tony from Rugby told Socialist Worker, “The Brexit vote lifted the lid on a lot of things. I’d almost say it’s become the ‘trending topic’—racism and also xenophobia. “They are different, but interconnected.”

Defending refugees was a key theme. UCU union

general secretary Sally Hunt told a workshop on Calais that “the trade union movement is not doing enough”.

One refugee who spent eight months in the Dunkirk camp called the government “shameful”. “They treat me like I do not have the right to be in this world,” he said.

Another workshop discussed opposing racist violence and defending migrant rights in the wake of the Brexit vote.

There was debate over whether to focus on defending the right to free movement or migrant rights more generally.

Some speakers said Brexit undermines anti-racist campaigns. Others said the Leave vote was not simply racist.

**A**CROSS THE day activists pointed to alternative reasons for rising racism.

Adik Malik from Luton said the recent attack on a pregnant Muslim woman in Bletchley, Milton Keynes, was “the end product of Prevent”. The Prevent strategy targets Muslims as potential terrorists.

Activists discussed the rise of the far right in Europe.

One speaker said, “What I find very

### Imam Suliman Gani south London

“More and more you’re under attack just because of what you believe, because you’re a Muslim. But it’s not just about Islamophobia.”

“If we don’t take a stand together, we will be left isolated. The scapegoating of Muslims, refugees and migrants is shocking.”

“Theresa May’s speech is making migrants feel worried.”

“More imams need to get involved in Stand Up To Racism.”

“We’re going to hold a meeting to follow up in south London.”



THE MAIN hall of the Stand Up To Racism conference last Saturday

encouraging about today is whether you campaigned to Leave or Remain, we’re all here together to fight racism.”

And the Leave vote doesn’t explain the growth of racism across Europe.

Petros Constantinou from the Greek anti-fascist organisation Keerfa blamed the “European Union policy of blocking refugees” for helping the Nazi Golden Dawn party to organise.

**O**THER sessions focused on Islamophobia and the Prevent strategy. Former Guantanamo Bay detainee and director of the Cage detainees’ rights group Moazzam Begg said Prevent “is not new”.

“We’ve had terror laws over the last 15 years,” he said. “People are targeted for opposition and dissent.” Shelly Asquith, NUS vice president for welfare, said the union would support academics refusing to implement Prevent and student unions trying to disrupt it.

Speakers asked what to do when some Muslims and Muslim organisations go along with Prevent.

Azad Ali from the Mend campaign group argued that campaigning

can give Muslims more confidence.

“When they see that Muslims and others are involved they will be braver,” he said.

The importance of anti-racist campaigning came through again and again.

One refugee said seeing anti-fascists in Greece gave her confidence. “I lived in fear from 2006 to 2008,” she said. “I wasn’t able to go out. I came out when demonstrations saying refugees are welcome here passed by my home.”

Khalil Charles from the Muslim Association of Britain told a workshop on Islamophobia about a racist attack on Finsbury Park Mosque last year.

“The protest in support of the



### Peter Edwards PCS South Wales

“The conference didn’t just reflect people’s experiences of racism. I didn’t hear a single speech that wasn’t political.”

“People were talking about racism as part of a much bigger problem that’s being pushed by the Tories, politicians and media.”

“I collected a load of ‘Civil Service Workers Stand Up To Racism’ badges. I’m going to take those around my workplace, and identify colleagues who want to get involved.”



mosque that followed the attack was so important to us,” he said. “It demonstrates exactly the kind of unity we need.”

Kadisha Brown-Burrell spoke movingly about the five-year battle for justice her family has waged for her brother Kingsley.

He died after police forcibly restrained him in Birmingham in 2011.

“If we don’t fight we’ll never have a voice,” Kadisha said.

Journalist and Black Lives Matter activist Gary McFarlane was cheered as he called for a “new Civil Rights Movement”.

The Tories hope to scapegoat migrants for the impact of their austerity.

Birmingham anti-war activist Salma Yaqoob demolished their lies. “If you listen to what’s in the mainstream, I am responsible for the crisis in the NHS,” she said.

“It seems it has nothing to do with years of chronic underfunding.”

Musician and socialist Elva Stevenson added, “To beat austerity you have to fight the scapegoating and prejudice they use.”

Migrant workers took on the myth that they cause lower wages and worse conditions at work. Instead, their struggles can drive wages up and have a big impact.

**S**TUDENTS STRESSED the need to set up Stand Up To Racism groups on campuses. Hertfordshire student Naima said, “We need to link up with other student societies, our students’ unions and our lecturers.”

Rizwan from NUS Black Students told Socialist Worker, “There’s no point coming together like this if we don’t go away and organise.”

Malia Bouattia, president of the NUS, told a final plenary, “When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes our duty.”

Speakers from Mend and the Muslim Council of Britain vowed to be a part of coming SUTR initiatives.

Many events are already planned, such as a Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) gig in London later this month.

Other activists are setting up workplace SUTR groups. Sam, a health worker from east London, described how she and some Muslim colleagues had run a stall in her hospital in support of refugee rights.

“People were so glad to see us,” she said. “Now we’ve organised for the first Stand Up To Racism meeting in the hospital.”

The conference showed the broad support for

### Gabby and Hafsa students

Gabby said, “I was impressed with the range of speakers at the conference, such as people from the teachers’ union. It shows how much support there is.”

Hafsa told Socialist Worker, “At the moment fighting racism and other oppressions are key issues. I came to hear different thoughts and opinions on what we can do about it.”



### Michael student

“I believe that all the refugees should be welcome here. There’s a dehumanising effect about not letting in people who are fleeing terror.”

“I came to the Stand Up To Racism conference because I want to do something about my beliefs, not just talk about it.”



anti-racism across Britain and should be a launchpad for campaigning.

Gloria Mills from the TUC general council called on people to join the demonstration on UN anti-racism day on Saturday 18 March.

As SUTR joint convenor Weyman Bennett put it, “This isn’t just a conference to talk. It is a conference to organise. We can be united, we can stand up to racism and we can beat Theresa May.”

for more go to [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)



Gloria Mills of the TUC



Part of the conference audience



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### ESSEX

**The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx**  
Thu 3 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford  
CM1 2QL

#### LANCASTER

**The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx**  
Thur 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

#### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**A rebel's guide to Malcolm X**  
Wed 2 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),  
E17 4QU

#### NEWCASTLE

**After Jeremy Corbyn's victory—how do we fight for socialism?**  
Thu 10 Nov, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St, NE1 6HQ

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### ABERDEEN

**Bring down the borders—why we oppose all immigration controls**  
Wed 19 Oct, 6pm,  
Belmont Cinema Cafe,  
49 Belmont St,  
AB10 1JS

#### BARNSELEY

**The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
YMCA,  
Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

#### BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

**Why are the Tories wrecking state education?**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Birmingham LGBT Centre,  
38/40 Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EQ

#### BOLTON

**What are Labour's values?**  
Thu 20 Oct, 6.30pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St  
(off Bradshawgate),  
BL1 1DY

#### BRADFORD

### What is imperialism?

Thu 27 Oct, 7pm,  
Glyde House,  
Little Horton Lane,  
BD5 0BQ

#### BRIGHTON

**Can Theresa May unite the Tories?**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

#### BURNLEY

**Spain 1936—revolution and civil war**  
Wed 26 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St,  
BB11 1NR

#### CAMBRIDGE

**Hinkley Point—why nuclear power is not the answer**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Signal Box,  
Glenalmond Avenue  
(off Clarendon Rd),  
CB2 8DB

#### CARDIFF

**Hinkley Point—why nuclear power is not the answer**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

#### CHELMSFORD

**Who was Leon Trotsky?**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
CM1 2QL

### STAND UP TO RACISM MOVEMENT EVENTS

# CONFRONTING THE RISE IN RACISM



#### BRADFORD

Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
The Bradford Hotel,  
Hall Ings,  
BD1 5SH

#### BRISTOL

Thu 3 Nov, 7.15pm,  
Unite the Union,  
Tony Benn House,  
Victoria St, BS1 6AY.  
With Mayor of Bristol  
Marvin Rees and others

#### LIVERPOOL

Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Unite Building,  
Jack Jones House,  
2 Churchill Way,  
L3 8EF

#### MANCHESTER

Sat 29 Oct, 2.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St,  
M2 5NS.  
With Rebecca Long  
Bailey MP, Gus John  
and others

for more information  
and to get involved with  
the campaign go to  
[standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)



Stand Up To Racism activists protesting in Dover

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

### SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

After Stand Up To  
Racism conference

## Fighting the rise of racism

#### COLCHESTER

Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd,  
CO2 7ET

#### LIVERPOOL

Thu 27 Oct, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
22 School Ln,  
L1 3BT

#### LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
The Pepperpot Centre,  
1a Thorpe Close,  
Ladbroke Grove,  
W10 5XL

#### LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
West Greenwich  
Community Centre,  
141 Greenwich High Rd,  
SE10 8JA

#### SOUTHAMPTON

Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Central Baptist Church  
Hall, Devonshire Rd,  
SO15 2GY

#### LONDON: BRIXTON

**The impact of Bob Marley**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,  
facing Windrush Square),  
SW2 1EP

#### LONDON: EALING

**A rebel's guide to Malcolm X**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
West London Trade Union Club,  
33-35 Acton High St,  
W3 6ND

#### LONDON: HACKNEY

**The rise of the far right in Europe**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd),  
E5 0PU

#### LONDON: HARINGEY

**The politics of Bernie Grant**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd  
(corner Vincent Rd),  
N15 3QH

#### LONDON: ISLINGTON

**Education in crisis**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
The Old Fire Station,  
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

#### LONDON: NEWHAM

**Cable Street 1936—when the East End beat the Blackshirts**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next to  
Morrisons car park), E15 1HP

#### LONDON: SOUTHWARK

**Syria—revolution, counter-revolution and civil war**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Room 6, Peckham Pulse,  
SE15 5QN

#### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**The burkini ban and the rise of Islamophobia**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Oxford House,  
Derbyshire St (opposite  
Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),  
E2 6HG

#### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**Staying power—Asian workers' struggle in Britain**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),  
E17 4QU

#### LUTON

**Bring down the borders—why we oppose all immigration controls**  
Thu 27 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Stockwood Hotel,  
41-43 Stockwood Crescent  
(enter via London Rd  
car park),  
LU1 3SS

#### MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

**Here to stay, here to fight—how migrant workers and the Grunwick strike changed everything**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Chorlton Library (side door),  
Manchester Rd,  
M21 9PN

#### MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

**A rebel's guide to Leon Trotsky**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

#### MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

**Marxism and terrorism**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Inspire, 747 Stockport Rd,  
M19 3AR

#### NEWCASTLE

**The 1905 Russian Revolution**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St, NE1 6HQ

#### NORWICH

**A rebel's guide to Leon Trotsky**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

#### NOTTINGHAM

**Marxism and mental health**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

#### OXFORD

**Rosa Luxemburg—Reform or Revolution**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Restore,  
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),  
OX4 1YH

#### PLYMOUTH

**US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser of two evils?**  
Thu 27 Oct, 7pm,  
Quaker House,  
74 Mutley Plain,  
PL4 6LF

#### POOLE

**The fight for the NHS**  
Mon 14 Nov, 7.30pm,  
Butler & Hops,  
88 High St,  
BH15 1DB

#### PORTSMOUTH

**Spain 1936—revolution against fascism**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St,  
PO5 4EZ

#### ROTHERHAM

**US elections—is Hillary Clinton the lesser of two evils?**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7pm,  
Talbot Lane Methodist  
Church Centre,  
Moorgate St,  
S60 2EY

#### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**Marxism and mental health**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St (near  
Crucible Theatre),  
S1 2JB

#### SWANSEA

**Hands off our land! Fighting the privatisation of public space**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd,  
SA2 0BP

#### TELFORD

**Why we say open borders—let the refugees in**  
Thu 20 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Carriages, The Parade,  
Wellington,  
TF1 1PY

#### YORK

**US elections—can Trump be stopped?**  
Wed 19 Oct, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

### { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

#### LONDON

**Marxism and nature**  
Sat 15 Oct, 10.30am,  
Central London,  
WC2E 9RZ

A one-day conference hosted by International Socialism Journal. Book online at [isj.org.uk/day-school-marxism-and-nature/](http://isj.org.uk/day-school-marxism-and-nature/)

#### DORCHESTER

**Fighting Islamophobia today**  
Sat 5 Nov, 1.30pm,  
Colliton Club, Colliton Park,  
DT1 1XJ.  
Organised by Dorset Socialists

#### GLASGOW

**Marxism Festival Scotland 2016**  
Sat 29 Oct, 10am,  
Renfield St Stephen's,  
260 Bath St, G2 4JP

#### NATIONAL

**National Libraries, Museums & Galleries demonstration**  
Sat 5 Nov, 12am,  
The British Library,  
96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB

#### National Demo: United for Education

Sat 19 Nov, 10am,  
Central London,  
WC2E 9RZ

#### POLAND

**Educational trip to Krakow and Auschwitz**  
Thu 3 Nov  
Organised by Unite Against  
Fascism. [www.uaf.org.uk](http://www.uaf.org.uk)

### CONTACT THE SWP

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[enquires@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquires@swp.org.uk)

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London SE11 9BW

## A Rebel's Guide to Malcolm X

by Anthony Hamilton

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# Skinheads—a working class cult that's been ska'd for life?

Firmly fixed in the public imagination as fascist thugs, Skinheads are reviled. But Don Letts' television documentary sets the record straight, says **Paul Sillett**

**SAY "SKINHEADS" and most people will think instinctively of fascist thugs.**

The truth is far more complex.

Don Letts, the legendary punk pioneer, radio DJ and social commentator, grew up with the original skins and allows them to put the case for the defence.

Skinhead culture was rooted in the crossover between the "rude boy" style brought over by Jamaican immigrants in the 1950s and 60s, and sharp-dressing, soul-loving, working class Mods.

The mods, already obsessed with aspects of black culture, took to Jamaican Ska music and its dances and clothes naturally. Many who made the transition from mod to skinhead were only too aware of these multicultural roots.

Black skins (Afro Boys) were a crucial part of skinhead. Why wouldn't they be? The singers and bands skinheads worshipped—Desmond Dekker, Prince Buster and The Skatalites—were their heroes too.

Being a skin was fun, edgy, and dangerous. The style was unapologetically working class.

Against the prevailing hippy fashions, they wore the hair close cropped, and donned sharp suits, Ben Sherman shirts and Bass Weejeun Loafers. Trapped in dead end jobs, most skins lived for the weekend. Dancing in clubs to Rock Steady reggae, learning about the "birds and the bees", and going to football.

Letts uses great archive footage to reveal the multiracial nature of skinhead.

But there was a contradiction in the movement. While befriending one set of immigrants, West Indians, others—Asians in particular—were often subject to attack. By 1968, when the



**DON LETTS with Pauline Black of Ska band, The Selector**

scene spread from London to the rest of Britain, Enoch Powell's bigotry reinforced such violent racism.

Media moral panics about skinheads exaggerated the worst behaviour and led many skins to play up to the stereotype.

Many original skins started moving away from the life by the early 1970s, while a new, younger element emerged. By now skinhead was associated in the public mind with right

wing scum.

Fortunately, Skinhead Against Racial Prejudice's Roddy Moreno is on hand to tell it as it really was.

Letts' portrayal of the re-emergence of skinheads in the late 1970s around bands such as Sham 69 and the 2-Tone record label is problematic.

The screen darkens when ex-Young National Front leader, Joe Pearce, and right wing "journalist" Gary Bushell start spouting. But

the boneheads who latched onto the skinhead image from the fascist right were consistently challenged.

Sham '69's lead singer Jimmy Pursey stood up to fascist goons who recruited some skins around his band. To his credit he backed Rock Against Racism and the Anti Nazi League instead.

Pauline Black of The Selector recounts the tribulations of playing Ska to audiences in the 1970s and early 1980s. Gigs were often wrecked by boneheads giving Nazi salutes. Often they were battlegrounds between racists and anti-racists.

In the post-punk era of the early 1980s, skinheads became more associated with Oi! music, and Moreno notes how the scene became infested with Nazis.

Raw, harder than punk, and with some cardboard cut-out characteristics, Oi! was littered with even more contradictions.

Some of the new skin bands were socialist, others were linked to fascists. The Southall Riot of 1981 was sparked by racist skinheads going to an Oi! gig. It effectively ended the scene. Oi! certainly had a Nazi skinhead following, but to label it Nazi music is mistaken.

In Sheffield, Communist Party-influenced skinheads helped lead marches against police harassment, and were part of the inspiration for Trevor Griffiths' 1982 anti-fascist play, *Oi For England*.

Blemishes aside, Letts has made a fascinating film. Updated with a homage to Shane Meadows' *This is England* TV hit, this is a firm rebuttal to those who revile the whole skinhead scene.

**The Story of Skinhead** with Don Letts is on BBC4 this Friday at 9pm

## EVENTS

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
blackhistorymonth.org.uk

OCTOBER IS Black History Month and there are events up and down Britain.

Riots, Racism and Resistance in Imperial Britain, is the subject of a talk in Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art, or there's a showing of *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of The Revolution* film in Leicester.

Merseyside Maritime Museum's hosts the film *Dakar 66: Fifty Years On*, a look at "the world's first black art festival" in the Senegalese capital.

A Belgrade Theatre show in Coventry tells the



**Black Panthers on film**

stories of Ira Aldridge and Paul Robeson as part of the Multicultural Shakespeare project.

Many events are free so it's well worth checking out what's on in your area.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**THE DISPLACED**

19 Oct—2 Nov, Mon to Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Amnesty Human Rights Action Centre, New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. Free

PHOTOJOURNALIST Guy Smallman, whose work appears in *Socialist Worker*, has documented the lives of internally displaced Afghan people since 2008.

Since then the number



**Children in Afghanistan**

of people living in appalling conditions due to war, poverty and land disputes has risen to 1.2 million. Sadly, the situation is about to get a whole lot worse.

Neighbouring Pakistan is now carrying out its threat to expel 3 million Afghan refugees many of whom have no homes or land to return to.

# Brutality lives on in US as prisons replace plantations

## FILM

**13TH**

Directed by Ava DuVernay  
In some cinemas and online at Netflix

**BLACK PEOPLE** in the US make up 5 percent of the total population—but 25 percent of the prison population. This insightful documentary film exposes the reality behind the statistic.

Using interviews, footage, pictures and anti-racist music, filmmaker Ava DuVernay—who

directed Martin Luther King film *Selma*—takes us through a history of racism and resistance.

The US criminal justice system disproportionately targets black people.

The film interviews scholars and activists who insist that, although slavery was abolished, the US prison system has taken its place.

The title refers to the 13th Amendment to the US

constitution, which outlaws slavery "except as a punishment for crime".

Prisons are an industry, and heavily privatised. That makes them places which need to be



**Ava DuVernay (right) grills right winger Newt Gingrich**

filled and can be funded by businesses.

Massive corporations such as Victoria's Secret use prisoners for free labour, producing and packaging their products. We are shown how successive presidents found ways of justifying throwing poor black people into prisons. The war on drugs, media bias and the militarisation of police all play into this.

It was alarming to learn about

the American Legislative Exchange Council, a huge corporate lobby group that rewrites state laws.

It promoted the "stand your ground" gun law that saw George Zimmerman cleared of murder after killing unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin.

13th challenges you to think about how the profits of the rich feed their need for racism.

And it satisfyingly articulates the need for the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Saba Shiraz**



**V**ETERAN left wing director Ken Loach's new film tells the story of a joiner who stops work due to ill health.

He claims Employment Support Allowance (ESA) sickness benefit—then is hounded by a system out to take it from him.

In preview showings organised by trade unions and campaigns, people have been horrified at the attacks the film exposes.

But ESA claimant and leading Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) campaigner Paula Peters told Socialist Worker, “This is what we live every day.

“The right wing media has done a very good job of painting benefit claimants as scroungers.

“They put across the government’s side of the story, then give us a media blackout when we protest.

“But the film is based on real stories—all these things have happened to people. And that’s what a lot of people don’t get.”

To claim ESA people have to prove they are not “fit for work” in hated Work Capability Assessments (WCA).

Claimants of Disability Living Allowance or its replacement Personal Independence Payment must do this too. The film shows the anguish this can cause.

“It’s devastating,” said Paula. “When you’re waiting to be assessed you feel absolute fear and anxiety. You’re filled with dread. You don’t know what will happen to you, so you’re left with a real insecurity about the future.

“And the film shows how your health really deteriorates under that stress.”

Others have their ESA or Job Seeker’s Allowance cut off by “sanctions” if they are deemed—by the most arbitrary standards—not to be doing enough to get work.

The results can be deadly.

Thousands of people have died after their benefits have been cut off.

Some have killed themselves, others have died as a result of their conditions. Former work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith shrugged these off as a statistical fluke.

But coroners’ reports and 49 peer-reviewed reports from his own Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) explicitly draw the link.

Paula said, “Last week a friend of mine took her own life. She had received two brown envelopes that morning. “One said she had been found fit for work. The other said her Pip was being cut in half.

“I have lost 25 of my friends in the last five years to this government. It has to stop.”

New cuts pile up with a cumulative impact that goes beyond any single “reform”.



DIRECTOR KEN Loach (left) with Dave Johns, who plays Daniel in I, Daniel Blake

# BRUTAL TRUTH BEHIND LOACH BENEFIT FILM

**I, Daniel Blake is a new film exposing the horror of Britain’s brutal benefit system. Activists told Socialist Worker why claimants, and some job centre workers, oppose the system**



Damian Green, work and pensions minister

Both the attacks explored in the film are about to be tightened.

The ESA benefit claimed by Daniel (played by Dave Johns) is to have another £1.4 billion slashed from it—by cutting £30 a week from half a million claimants.

Before that many thousands could suffer the fate that befalls Daniel’s ally Katie (Hayley Squires). She and her children are uprooted and exiled far from their London roots



**“When you’re waiting to be assessed you feel absolute fear”**

because the council won’t pay to house them.

The main driver of cases such as these has been the benefit cap. This is set to be brought down next month to £20,000 a year for a household or £23,000 in London.

The government portrays this as a small fortune, comparing benefits to the wages of the lowest paid workers.

It’s a rotten red herring. Most of those workers will be on benefits. And most benefit

claimants receive far less than the cap.

But a minority—mostly families with several children—need more to cope with soaring housing costs.

Almost two thirds are female lone parents. And the money often goes straight into the pockets of private landlords.

Housing activist Joe Halewood estimated that lowering the cap will increase those affected from around 20,000 households to over 150,000.

He pointed out that this won’t save money since many will need emergency homelessness support from councils.

Paula stressed, “This is an ideological assault. The government schemes have cost more than they have saved.

“They’ve not helped people into work. They’ve cut the support and capped the access to funds to help people work.

“Employers aren’t interested in taking on disabled people who need support or flexibility.

“But the model the government uses is designed to say it’s a person’s own fault if they can’t work, that they’re not trying hard enough.”

**M**ANY Tories would love to scrap welfare altogether. And bosses need the threat of unemployment to scare workers into accepting worse conditions.

The war on welfare serves to give it sharper claws and bigger teeth.

Central to that has been “conditionality and coercion”—testing, sanctioning, and making sure that anyone relying on benefits knows they can be snatched away.

As well as brutal, this is expensive and controversial.

New work and pensions secretary Damian Green announced that ESA claimants with long term conditions will now only undergo a WCA once, not repeatedly.

That’s partly so contractor Maximus doesn’t buckle under the caseload and opposition as its predecessor Atos did.

Universal Credit, the new benefit that extends the sanction regime to low paid workers, is so mired in delays it has become a running joke. But the Tories are pushing on.

Conditionality and coercion will inform the Health and Work Programme that replaces the failed Work Programme. In Islington, north London, there are even Maximus “job coaches” in GP surgeries.

They can order patients to attend courses or face sanctions.

Paula said, “This is very dangerous. The severe mental health cuts that are going on mean that all you have is your GP.

“I used to have a very good care coordinator who saw me once a month.

“Then after 40 years working for the NHS he was told his job

was no longer needed.

“His work permit was revoked and he was sent out of the country.

“So when someone in mental distress starts to see their GP surgery as a place of bullying and coercion, there’s nowhere left.”

The weak spot of this regime is that it rests on people—and people can say no.

Atos’ troubles hit home when it struggled to find health workers willing to put disabled people through tests, strip them of benefits—and ignore protests.

The government has tried to automate the process for appealing against WCA decisions, because human tribunals were upholding too many.

DWP employees—many of them in the PCS union—are on the front line. Job centre worker Pete said Loach’s film would make uncomfortable viewing.

“Seeing the real experience of claimants on the screen was a very distressing experience,” he told Socialist Worker.

“As job centre workers we know what happens to people who are sanctioned but we don’t see it. It would be great to get this film shown in every job centre and to every employee.

“It would remind people that every one of those statistics they are told to chase is a real human being.”

The film shows some workers sympathetically, others as villains.

Pete said, “It’s a real argument in every office. You’ll have someone who does exactly what the government says because they agree with it.

“Then you’ll have someone who won’t give sanctions because it’s wrong.

“In between, the majority recognise the damage done by sanctions but are afraid of losing their job.”

This debate is shaped by struggles in wider society.

“PCS calls for sanctions to be scrapped, and it defends workers’ right to ‘use their discretion’—discretion some people use to never sanction,” said Pete.

“People are under pressure to give sanctions. But there isn’t the sanction mania that there was a few years ago.

The government has lost the argument because of popular outrage—and we need more of that.”



A scene from I, Daniel Blake (top)  
A protest against benefit cuts last month (above)  
and activist Paula Peters (below)

The film has its part to play. Paula said, “I want everyone to watch I, Daniel Blake. And then don’t stop there.

“Do research into what’s being done. Read Socialist Worker, one of the only papers that tells it how it is and says what the struggles are.

“Join Dpac or one of the other campaigns. Watch the film, become incensed with anger—then join your voices to ours so there are no more Daniel Blakes.”

I, Daniel Blake is out on Friday 21 October

## READ MORE

● **Disability, Austerity and Resistance**  
by Roddy Slorach  
£2

● **Why We’re Not Benefit Scroungers: ‘Life with Chronic Illness or Disability in Modern Britain’**  
by Stef Benstead  
£9.99

● **A Very Capitalist Condition: A history and politics of disability**  
by Roddy Slorach  
£12.99

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## ANALYSIS

# Ukip has been floored—but is it a killer blow?

Nigel Farage’s party should have been careful what it wished for. **Sadie Robinson** diagnoses the racists’ post-Brexit headaches

THE NEXT likely leader of Ukip, Steven Woolfe, was hospitalised last week—allegedly after being struck by colleague Mike Hookem at an MEPs’ meeting.

It was a dramatic glimpse of the crisis gripping the racist party.

Previous leader Diane James resigned after just 18 days. “I do not have sufficient authority, nor the support of all my MEP colleagues and party officers to implement changes I believe necessary,” she said.

Many expected anti-Europe, anti-migrant Ukip to get a boost from the vote to leave the European Union and the stepping up of anti-immigrant racism.

But Ukip is struggling to maintain hard right politics and move into the mainstream at the same time. Its right wing populism is contradictory and unstable.

Ukip’s history isn’t one of a steady rise but of dramatic surges in support interspersed with splits and crises.

It fed off mainstream parties whipping up racism and disillusion among their supporters. It railed against the elite it was trying to join.

Ukip was formed in 1993 and took one percent of the vote in European Parliament elections in 1994.

## Split

Ten years later that rose to 16 percent. But rows followed over whether to stand candidates against anti-EU Tories. High profile supporter Robert Kilroy-Silk led a split.

Ukip’s membership fell by a third and donations halved. Ukip won just 2.2 percent of the vote in the 2005 general election and 3 percent in 2010.

By 2013 it grabbed an average of 25 percent in wards where it stood for local elections in England. And defections from the Tories and huge media attention



MUCH LIKE his party, Steven Woolfe has seen better days

## BACK STORY

**Ukip has been mired in turmoil since the vote to leave the European Union**

● Leader Nigel Farage resigned after the vote. The race to replace him saw bitter rows about former Tories and party structures

● Diane James stood at the last minute and won. She quit 18 days later—having never started in the role

● New frontrunner Steven Woolfe dominated last Friday’s front pages, coming off worse in an alleged fight

helped it win 12.6 percent in the 2015 general election—3.8 million votes.

It remains the biggest British party in the European Parliament.

But Ukip hasn’t had things all its own way. It lost one of its two MPs, Mark Reckless, in 2015. Then-leader Nigel Farage spectacularly failed to break through in South Thanet.

Farage admitted being riled by anti-racists who organised to oppose Ukip. Its majority

helped it win 12.6 percent in the 2015 general election—3.8 million votes.

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on Thanet district council, in Kent, lasted less than a year.

Ukip’s growth attracted some prominent Tories—who many core members resent.

Arron Banks, one of Ukip’s top donors, refuses to give any more unless the party deselecteds former Tories Douglas Carswell and Neil Hamilton. This matters because Ukip is “broke”.

## Scrapped

But Carswell and Hamilton have support among Ukip’s National Executive Committee (NEC). Farage and his allies want the NEC to be scrapped.

One Daily Mail article last week described Ukip as “on the verge of collapse”. Yet while its headaches are likely to continue, Ukip is not dead.

It won an alarming landslide in a Hartlepool council by-election last week, taking nearly 50 percent of the vote.

It has overcome crises in the past—and the racism it feeds on has not gone away.

There’s a bigger picture too. Banks hailed Theresa May’s migrant-bashing speech to the Tory party conference as “a speech that Nigel Farage could have given”.

He gloated that “ideas that were thought to be peripheral are now mainstream. Theresa May has basically rebranded the Conservative Party as Ukip”.

This is an overstatement. But Ukip has succeeded in pushing mainstream politics to the right. Anti-racists must continue to organise against Ukip—and the racism of the mainstream that feeds it.

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It remains the biggest British party in the European Parliament.



# US establishment's secrets exposed

by DAVE SEWELL

**TWO OF the least popular presidential candidates in US history had words they hoped would never be heard exposed in leaks last week.**

Most damaging was a 2005 recording of Donald Trump, now Republican candidate, disgustingly bragging that his celebrity status enabled him to sexually assault women.

It provoked widespread outrage, both real and hypocritical. Leading Republicans who had never wanted to accept Trump as the party's candidate tested the water for dropping him.

The party's 2008 candidate John McCain said he would spoil his ballot. House leader Paul Ryan cancelled a rally appearance and said he would not campaign for Trump.

Interim Ukip leader Nigel Farage, who in June scaremongered about refugees groping women, shrugged off Trump's "alpha male boasting".

But while Trump had to look across the Atlantic for politicians to support him, some 74 percent of Republican voters wanted to stand by him, a poll on Saturday

**DONALD TRUMP and Hillary Clinton square off as the presidential debate gets ugly**

found.

He hit back hard against Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton in the second televised presidential debate last Sunday.

He pledged to jail her if elected over a series of scandals and cover-ups.

Trump's toxic sexism did help Clinton by distracting from a leak of her own that should have been deeply damaging in its own right.

The Wikileaks website released tens of thousands of emails, including transcripts of speeches made for cash behind closed doors at

corporate events.

Tax returns show her minimum fee was £200,000 for a speech.

Clinton explained to big landlords' lobbyist the National Multifamily Housing Council that, "politics is like sausage being made. It is unsavoury, and it

always has been that way."

That means that "if everybody's watching, you know, all of the back room discussions and the deals, you know, then people get a little nervous, to say the least.

"So, you need both a public and a private position."

In Sunday's debate Clinton publicly called for a no-fly zone over Syria. She privately told Goldman Sachs in 2013, that means "you're going to kill a lot of Syrians".

When campaigning in public she said the banks wrecked the economy, should face more regulations and have their influence over politics.

In private at other Goldman Sachs events she said they weren't to blame and should draw up the regulations themselves.

In a September 2014 speech to law firm Robbins, Gellar, Rudman & Dowd Clinton said, "When I was a senator from New York, I represented and worked with so many talented people who made their living in finance."

Clinton noted that she "did all I could to make sure they continued to prosper."

The emails underline the need to build resistance to her pro-boss, pro-war agenda if Clinton wins.

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# Mass movement blocks abortion ban in Poland

by ANDY ZEBROWSKI in Warsaw

**A WAVE of mass protests in Poland has smashed a proposed total ban on abortions in a humiliating defeat for the right wing government.**

After the biggest nationwide protests and a “women’s strike” against the proposed law, right wing PiS party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski stepped in.

Parliament overwhelmingly voted by 352 to 58 to throw out the proposals last Thursday.

That included 186 of the PiS’s 227 MPs who had voted that day. They had all solidly backed the “citizen’s bill” drawn up by right wing Catholic lawyers.

This is a problem for Kaczynski, who has courted Catholic reactionaries for years to build up the PiS’s base.

But Kaczynski didn’t reckon on the opposition to the abortion ban being so huge—nobody did.

The ban would have made abortion illegal even if the foetus was damaged, the pregnancy resulted from rape or if the woman’s life was in danger.

The incredible “women’s strike” last Monday saw demonstrations in towns and cities across the country.

According to the chief of police there were 143 separate protests with 98,000 people taking part.

They were dubbed the Black Monday protests after the movement’s official colour.

This mass movement represents a major change. For more than 20 years abortion rights demonstrations have typically been a couple of hundred people picketing parliament against right wingers on the offensive.

But last Monday you could see women dressed in black everywhere—on the streets, on buses, trams and trains.

## Young

The majority of protesters were young women, including huge numbers of school students.

This is significant as schools have been indoctrinating young people with the message “abortion is murder” for the last two decades.

Opinion polls used to show the highest opposition to abortion was among young people.

The government is now squeezed between the movement and the Catholic reactionaries.

It has said the total ban is finished—but a leading PiS politician has anonymously revealed some further restrictions are being prepared.

It can’t be ruled out that PiS will come back with new proposals when it feels safe.

The movement must ensure this



**DEMONSTRATING IN Warsaw** for abortion rights on the Saturday before the ‘women’s strike’

does not happen.

The two main right wing liberal opposition parties, who want to stick with the status quo, are already trying to rein in the movement.

But the majority of campaigners are now demanding liberalisation of Poland’s already highly restrictive abortion law.

The movement has won an important battle.

It represents a major change in people’s ideas and has begun to shape Polish politics.

Tens if not hundreds of thousands have tasted a victory won through their own mass protest.

Andy Zebrowski is a revolutionary socialist in Pracownica Demokracja (Workers’ Democracy) in Poland. Their website in Polish is at [pracowniczademokracja.org](http://pracowniczademokracja.org)



## What’s your story?

Email with your ideas  
[reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## UNITED STATES

# Strike in Chicago is off

**THE CHICAGO Teachers’ Union suspended a planned strike of 30,000 workers as Socialist Worker went to press.**

Teachers and school staff had been set to walk out indefinitely from Tuesday of this week.

The union said it had won a “tentative agreement” with the Board of Education.

The agreement must be ratified by union members.

It includes bringing in a two-tier system where new teachers will face worse conditions.

Teachers are in dispute over attacks on their pay

and conditions. The Board currently contributes 7 percent of a teacher’s salary into their pension fund and teachers pay in 2 percent.

The Board wanted all teachers to contribute the full amount. The new agreement means this will be phased in for new workers.

Teachers face serious cuts and attacks at the hands of the city’s Democratic Party mayor Rahm Emanuel which harm children’s education.

It isn’t clear if the union has won any concessions on these.

For background to the dispute see [bit.ly/2dh70qg](http://bit.ly/2dh70qg)

## SOUTH AFRICA



**Striking workers in Johannesburg**

# Fees revolt links up with mass strike

**THE SOUTH African students’ revolt against a tuition fee hike continues—and has defied the authorities’ attempts to stop demonstrations and protests.**

Student protests last Friday coincided with a national strike in defence of living standards by some 200,000 workers.

For three weeks students at universities across South Africa have marched and occupied their campuses.

Their revolt was triggered by the African National Congress (ANC) government announcing that universities could increase fees by up to 8 percent from 2017.

They have faced live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas, stun grenades and arrests—but the resistance kept going.

The protests are rooted in how little has changed for the black majority since the end of apartheid in 1994.

## Divided

Over half of black university students do not graduate, many because they cannot afford accommodation, transport or even enough food.

The protests have sharply divided unions and political organisations.

The ANC Youth League has attacked the fees rise. But the ANC national executive said, “We call on students to return to lectures and continue with the academic programme.”

The Cosatu trade union federation has said it supports the students, but that they must divert their protests away from the government.

Cosatu’s national strike last Friday saw big marches—and some students joined in.

The Numsa metalworkers’ union, which has over 300,000 members, has fully backed the students.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), which has grown by speaking to the left of the ANC, launched protests at campuses on Monday.

EFF Students Command president Mpho Morolane, said, “The authorities must be prepared that the struggle is going to escalate.”



## IN BRIEF

**Biscuits dispute is at a crunch point**

BFAWU BAKERS' union members at Burton's Biscuits in Blackpool are to strike every Tuesday for the next four weeks in a dispute over the use of agency labour.

The first strike is on Tuesday of next week from 6am at the Devonshire Road plant.

**Protests called for striking cleaners**

SUPPORTERS OF The three cleaners on strike at Wakefield Academy Trust's Kinsley primary school plan to march in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on Sunday.

Their outsourcing firm C&D Cleaning Services is based in the town. Meet at 12.45pm next to Barnsley Town Hall.

Workers at LSE university in London are to protest for the reinstatement of a cleaner. Go to [bit.ly/2dJosDw](http://bit.ly/2dJosDw)

**Fujitsu IT workers refresh their pay**

UNITE UNION members at Fujitsu Services are balloting for strikes over attacks on pay, pensions and job security. They provide IT services to government departments and companies.

**Ipswich bus strike stopped after deal**

THE UNITE union cancelled a planned one-day bus strike in Ipswich after winning a pay rise. Starter drivers demanded a £10 an hour wage after bosses offered them just a 15p raise to £8.81.

Unite said they now had an "equitable settlement".

**Breaking the bad bosses in Clitheroe**

AROUND 150 workers at chemical firm Johnson Matthey in Clitheroe, Lancashire, began a work-to-rule and overtime ban on Monday. The Unite union members are fighting plans to make them work longer without extra pay.

**Rally against the Turkish clampdown**

KURDISH AND Turkish workers were set to protest in London on Saturday against attacks on democracy and the right to organise in Turkey.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is using the failed coup in July to crack down on all his opponents—even if they strongly opposed it. ●Assemble 2pm, Downing Street. Called by Day-Mer

**'White lives' racists face opposition**

ANTI-RACISTS are organising against a "White Lives Matter" march called by the East Kent English Patriots in Margate, Kent, on Saturday 22 October.

●Go to [facebook.com/KentARN](http://facebook.com/KentARN)

## COUNCIL SERVICES

**Privatised staff fight back**

by BEAKAY

TWO STRIKES in outsourced council services are exposing the cost of privatisation in Sheffield.

Bin workers employed by Veolia struck over pay on Wednesday of last week.

The GMB union members demand a 5 percent pay rise. Veolia had offered just 1 percent, which it has now increased to 1.5 percent.

GMB members working for Amey who service roads and street lighting also struck on Monday. They are fighting local pay bargaining, the threat of redundancies and use of subcontractors.

Pickets started at 4am at

Olive Grove and Ecclesfield depots and later rallied outside the town hall.

Both groups of workers plan to come out together next Monday. They have support from their union and the public.

The GMB is the majority union in both cases. Other unions failed to support the action.

Both Amey and Veolia are part of giant firms making huge profits out of attacking our jobs, pay and services.

The strikers' success will depend on escalation—and support from other trade unionists.

●Send solidarity messages to [sheffield.office@gmb.org.uk](mailto:sheffield.office@gmb.org.uk)

## EDUCATION

**Dirty trick is a new low for Labour in Durham**

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

LABOUR-RUN Durham County Council is playing unions off against each other in a bid to derail strikes against its 23 percent cut to teaching assistants' (TAs) pay.

It announced on Tuesday of last week different standards as to how its axe will fall.

The minority of TAs in unions accepting its offer of two years' "compensation" will be treated differently to

members of Unison—the majority union that is balloting for strikes.

Over 1,700 TAs in a workforce of 2,700 were set to begin the strike ballot on Thursday after a massive vote to reject the pay cut.



Council leader Simon Hedgic explaining cuts with a cake

The council has extended the deadline for "non-Unison" members to accept its offer and reject striking.

Pitting low-paid TAs against each other to convince them that strikes

cannot achieve better results is a new low in a shameful story from a Labour council.

TAs should demand the Labour leadership condemn such tactics and offers practical solidarity to boost their fight.

Workers are out to get out as large a vote for strikes as possible to show they won't be intimidated. Jan told Socialist Worker, "The majority of us are prepared to strike—we can't afford not to."

After months of union inaction, TAs have forced Unison to fight. They now need massive solidarity. ●Send solidarity messages and requests for a TA to speak at your union branch to [spartacusannie@gmail.com](mailto:spartacusannie@gmail.com)

## DEFENDING THE NHS



NHS CAMPAIGNERS came to confront health secretary Jeremy Hunt on Monday. Groups fighting cuts in Huddersfield, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, and Oxfordshire handed in petitions at the Department for Health and Downing Street.

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## HULL

**Lecturers walk out for jobs**

WORKERS AT Hull College were set to strike on Thursday against plans to impose redundancies.

Up to 142 workers could lose their jobs.

UCU union members voted for strikes by 86 percent. Workers plan to begin work to contract after the walkout.

They will refuse to work more than their normal hours or during breaks, and won't take on any voluntary duties.

The cuts affect lecturers, library staff and learning support workers—and several UCU branch officers. The cuts would also shut down all the college's three nurseries.

## SOUTHALL

**Teachers against academy**

TEACHERS AT a London primary school have agreed to suspend a strike against turning it into an academy.

NUT union members at Khalsa Primary school in Southall voted unanimously for the action. Support staff overwhelmingly backed it.

They had been set to strike on Wednesday and still plan a two-day strike from

Wednesday of next week.

Divisional secretary of Ealing NUT Stefan Simms said the vote reflected a "determination to defend children". "Academising the school will damage education," he said.

●Send messages of support via [ealingnut.org.uk/2016/09/khalsa-primary-nut-atl-joint-strike-ballot](http://ealingnut.org.uk/2016/09/khalsa-primary-nut-atl-joint-strike-ballot)

## ANTI-FASCISM

**Cable Street rally remembers how to win**

SOME 3,000 people marched down Cable Street, east London, on Sunday to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street.

A mass turnout of workers stopped the fascist Blackshirts marching there in 1936.

Max Levitas was part of the mobilisation in 1936. He told Socialist Worker, "It was a battle against the police and the organisations of the working class came together and won."

Before the march crowds gathered in Altab Ali Park.

Weyman Bennett from Unite Against Fascism said, "Unity has been the watchword of our movement. It is our duty to come together."

Weyman pointed to



Marching in Cable Street

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

successes against the British National Party and English Defence League. "When we say, 'they shall not pass', we mean it," he said.

Moshfiquur Noor of Tower Hamlets Labour Party

warned that the right was still attempting to stoke division today.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn argued against attempts to scapegoat immigrants.

## ROTHERHAM 12

**'Self defence is no offence'**

EVIDENCE IN the trial of the Rotherham 12 was set to be heard from Thursday.

The 12 Asian men are charged with violent disorder following a march by Nazi group Britain First in Rotherham—two weeks after the murder of a Muslim pensioner.

More than 200 people protested outside Sheffield Crown Court on Thursday of last week, chanting "Self defence is no offence".

Anti-racists and trade unionists demanded charges be dropped.

Activists came from the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, Rotherham Unite Against Fascism and

Stand Up To Racism.

Jade Perkins, a nurse, came "to show solidarity to a community victimised by Islamophobia encouraged by this government."

Rashda Mahroof, a community worker, said, "We need to stand up to racism and support local communities and do what we can when they've been wronged by the system." Unite union member Shaun Wade said, "I'm 100 percent behind them. They stood up to fascists."

More protests are planned during the trial, which is expected to last three weeks.

Phil Turner



## CINEMA WORKERS

# Joint strike is called after action at Ritzy

by ALISTAIR FARROW

**STRIKING WORKERS** at the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, south London, marched to the BFI London film festival in Leicester Square on Thursday of last week.

The Bectu union members were on strike for the London Living Wage of £9.40 an hour. Strikers also want maternity and paternity pay, sick pay and pay rises for duty managers and supervisors.

Ritzy is part of the Picturehouse chain, owned by Cineworld.

Workers marched past BFI Southbank. "BFI pays the living wage so we want them to pressure Picturehouse to do the same," said striker Zena Papaphati.

## Dignity

Picturehouse's 2015 full accounts include the statement, "Each person is accorded the dignity and respect and the guiding principle is followed that we treat other people as we ourselves would like to be treated."

Cineworld Holdings Ltd posted after tax profits of over £20 million in 2015. Yet workers can't afford to live where they work.

"A lot of workers can't afford to pay rent," said striker



STRIKERS OUTSIDE the BFI London film festival last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Sophie Lowe. "It's hypocritical because Picturehouse and Cineworld have recorded massive profits."

Workers at Hackney Picturehouse delivered a resounding 100 percent vote for strikes on a 58 percent turnout last week.

Their demands are similar

to those at the Ritzy but also include union recognition.

Both groups were set to strike this Saturday.

Marchers relished the prospect of joint action. "It's a great result," said Sophie.

"I'm looking forward to see what we can coordinate with people from Hackney," Zena

added, "The Hackney result was amazing. I think they're very brave. We feel like we're not alone anymore and we're going to give them as much support as they need."

For updates about the Ritzy dispute, go to [bit.ly/2cxFfuA](http://bit.ly/2cxFfuA) or [bit.ly/2deyzQO](http://bit.ly/2deyzQO) For updates on Hackney go to [bit.ly/2ddgle5](http://bit.ly/2ddgle5)

## ROTHERHAM ABUSE TRIAL



Sheffield Crown Court, where the trial is taking place

## Woman had 'impressive' details about defendants

A COMPLAINANT in an abuse trial gave "pretty impressive" detail about defendants who claim they never met her, a court has heard.

Michelle Colborne QC, prosecuting, gave her closing speech last week. Eight men are on trial for offences including rape and indecent assault that allegedly took place in the Rotherham area between 1999 and 2003.

They deny 19 charges.

The main complainant said she was raped and abused in 2003 when she was 13 and 14 years old.

Colborne told the court that defendants Sageer Hussain, Ishtiaq Khaliq, Asif Ali and Mohammed Whied all denied abusing the complainant.

"These four men say they are not the men the central complainant describes," said

Colborne. "Yet they all fit the description of them given."

She said the complainant had given accurate information on nicknames, ages, areas they lived in Rotherham and family information relating to the men.

"This information came from the woman, not from any media coverage," she added.

The court had heard from Asif Ali that he was cousins with Sageer Hussain and Mohammed Whied, and the son of Qurban Ali.

Colborne said Sageer Hussain's barrister would argue that the complainant identified him because she saw him on television in 2014.

She said this was flawed because she had reported Hussain for rape in 2003. The trial continues.

## HOUSING CAMPAIGNS

## Protest hits awards event

ACTIVISTS protested outside the annual Stirling Awards for architecture on Thursday of last week.

This year's shortlist includes Trafalgar Place, part of the notorious redevelopment of the Heygate estate in Southwark, south London.

Despite promising that a significant proportion of units at Trafalgar Place would be set at social rents, just eight of the 235 units will be socially rented.

Tanya Murat from Southwark Hands Off our Homes said, "I live in a council block opposite Trafalgar Place. When you

live in such close proximity to places that are being demolished you feel nervous.

"But we have a thriving Tenants and Residents Association and we will fight any attempt to demolish our homes."

Simon Elmer from Architects for Social Housing questioned the bidding process for the Heygate.

"Lendlease were sold the site for £52 million, at a loss of £30.5 million," he said.

He pointed out that former Southwark councillors involved in the deal have gone on to work for Lendlease.

More on housing, see page 7

## ANTI-AUSTERITY CAMPAIGNS



Part of the protest in Brixton, south London

## Anti-cuts demo in Brixton

A RALLY and march called to Stand up to Lambeth Council brought together over 200 people last Saturday, angry and disgusted at the south London Labour council.

They included library campaigners, tenants from housing estates facing demolition, campaigners against the Garden Bridge and traders facing eviction from the Brixton Arches.

The protest sent an angry

message to the Labour group of councillors, controlled by right wing faction Progress.

Councillors prefer to listen to their property developer friends rather than the people who elected them. Claiming to have no choice but to pass on Tory cuts, they now run the most unequal borough in London.

Campaigners vowed to continue the fight.

Micki Loebner

## MEDIA WORKERS

## Week-long walkout set at Newsquest to stop cuts

JOURNALISTS working on regional newspapers in South London were set to begin a week-long strike on Thursday of this week.

Members of the NUJ union at Newsquest South London are fighting job cuts that will mean journalists are seriously overworked.

They had been set to begin the walkout last Thursday, but suspended it for talks at conciliation service Acas to show "good faith".

Plans to strike resumed after Newsquest bosses refused to back down, and an NUJ spokesperson accused them of treating workers with "contempt".

But the length of the strike has been reduced

from the initial plan of two weeks to one.

Journalists at Newsquest South London also struck last year against a restructure that saw jobs cut across a range of regional papers.

The strike was solid and well supported. But the cuts went through after the strikers ended their action early for talks "as a sign of goodwill".

Newsquest bosses have shown they are ruthless and determined to force through their attacks on workers.

It will take equally ruthless and determined action to stop them.

Send messages of support to [campaigns@nuj.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@nuj.org.uk) and see [bit.ly/2dStigh](http://bit.ly/2dStigh) for more

## BUTTERFIELDS

## Tenants' victory over sales

CAMPAIGNERS ON the Butterfields estate in north east London have scored a victory in their fight to stay in their homes.

The landlords, Butterfields E17 Ltd, have agreed to sell one of the homes on the estate to Dolphin Housing Association.

This is a charitable organisation which had previously begun negotiations

with Butterfields E17. The firm had planned to kick out tenants and sell all the homes on the estate.

But a successful campaign by tenants and supporters has forced estate agents in the area to refuse to advertise any of the homes for sale.

The new sale could mark the beginning of the end of a hard-fought battle for tenants and their supporters.





DEFIANT RMT union members on the picket line at London Victoria station had a clear message for bosses

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# 'SOUTHERN RAIL, DO YOUR WORST'

by ALISTAIR FARROW

**TRAIN GUARDS** were defiant as they began a three-day strike on Tuesday against Southern rail bosses' plans to introduce the dangerous Driver Only Operation (DOO).

Bosses want to make safety the sole responsibility of drivers, replacing guards with a new "onboard supervisor" (OBS) role focused on fining passengers.

The government pays Govia Thameslink Rail (GTR) a flat fee to run the Southern franchise, regardless of the service it delivers.

GTR put forward a legal challenge to the action, but the workers' RMT union went ahead with it. General secretary Mick Cash hailed a "solid and determined" strike.

Seeking to end the dispute, Southern has offered to increase pay by £2,000 a year if guards take OBS jobs.

But this isn't the main point, RMT regional organiser Paul Cox told Socialist Worker on the picket line at London Victoria station.

"It's a dispute about

safety," he said. "People are out here when there is a better pay package on offer for people willing to take the OBS role."

A striking guard agreed, "This whole thing is not about the money, we're professionals and we want to do our jobs."

Guards had already struck for 14 days since April. Tuesday's walkout was the first in a new round of 14 days running up until December.

## Bitter

As the bitter dispute goes on opinion is increasingly turning against Southern bosses—despite them waging an aggressive media campaign against the union.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "The money they're wasting on adverts in papers to attack us could have been used to invest in safety and staff."

"It's all backfired on them, though, which is sweet."

GTR has tried to use reports from the "independent" Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) to attack the union. But GTR boss Charles Hooton is one

## SOLIDARITY DIARY

### Support workers' fight

**This week's action on Southern is part of a new round of 14 strike days**

● From Tuesday to Thursday this week, 11 to 13 October

● From Tuesday to Thursday of next week, 18 to 20 October

● Thursday 3 November to Saturday 5 November—Bonfire Night

● Tuesday 22 November, Wednesday 23 November

● From Friday 6 December to Sunday 8 December

**The RMT has called a rally and protest in London in support of the strike**

**Tuesday 4 November**

● Protest—assemble 12.30 outside Parliament opposite Old Palace Yard, SW1A 0AA

● Rally—inside Parliament, Committee room 10, from 2pm. Speakers include RMT general secretary Mick Cash and shadow transport secretary Andy McDonald



Pickets at Selhurst, south London

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

of the RSSB non-executive directors, a leaked document revealed.

In an earlier ill-advised attempt to whip up opposition Southern took to Twitter, asking people to tweet criticisms at the RMT.

## Strike

The replies included, "I'd rather be delayed by a strike than your company's inability to hire enough staff," and, "You, Southern Rail, are the issue. Not the union."

Commuters responded well to pickets handing out leaflets detailing the safety-critical role of guards. One said, "The reality is that every day feels like a strike day. Southern is running a poor service all of the time."

The government wants GTR to force through DOO so it can be rolled out across Britain as part of an attack on rail workers and their union.

That's why it keeps paying GTR despite constant delays and cancellations.

But if bosses fail to force workers to accept DOO, they could lose the franchise.

The stakes are high. To win, the strikes must be kept

on, extended and—if possible—spread to involve other workers.

Previous strikes have coincided with walkouts by Southern station staff before the RMT settled their dispute separately. Others were alongside workers in Scotland who finally stopped Scotrail imposing DOO there.

But strikes are putting bosses under pressure—and a planned walkout around bonfire night could pile more on.

A picket at Selhurst station in south London told Socialist Worker, "It's a very busy night and they've offered to pay half-trained managers extra to work on the night and scab on conductors."

"They're offering them extra days off as well."

Workers at Victoria were confident about taking the strike forward.

One said, "It's been solid here, everyone is furious. There's a feeling that if they think they can take us down, then they can do their worst."



**Have your say**

Write messages of support to @RMTunion on Twitter